THE

Intelligencer.

NUMB. IV.

Quando alea hos animos? Juv.

AMONG all the *Amuſements*, invented by the idle part of Mankind, to paſs away their Time, there is not one, which is attended with ſo many Evil Conſequences as that of *Gaming*, nor indeed any ſo much below the Dignity of Human-Nature, it being an Employment ſo Trifling in Appearance, that a Man with a *Box* and *Dice*, is hardly diſtinguiſhable from a Child with it's Rattle, or when he Diverts himſelf with a few ſcraps of Painted Paſte-board, does he make one whit a better figure.

But ſetting Appearances of this kind aſide, which can make even the Wiſeſt look Ridiculous, I ſhall chiefly Dwell upon the more ſolid Evils, that attend all intemperate practitioners in this way, and theſe I ſhall Sum up in the following Loſſes. *viz. Loſs of Time*;

Loſs

Loss of Reputation; *Loss of Health*; *Loss of Fortune*; *Loss of Temper*; *and what is often the Effect of it, the Loss of Life it self.*

First, That it is a *Loss of Time*, is plain, because our Time may be employ'd to more advantage; for by Six Hours in the twenty four, I can make my self *Wiser*, and *better*, and *Richer*; whereas on the Contrary, by *Cards* or *Dice*, I do Infallibly grow more *Stupid*, and *Worse*; and a Hundred to One against me I grow *Poorer*.

Secondly, That it is a *Loss of Reputation*, and Esteem in the World, is easily proved, because no Man of *Reputation* or *Esteem* was ever called a *Gamester*; Eo. *vice versa*, No *Gamester* can be called a Man of *Reputation* and *Esteem*. For in giving the best Characters to Men or Women, we never use the Word *Gaming* as an *Epithet*. We say, for Instance, *A great and Glorious King*; *A wise and a good Governor*; *A Learned and a Pious Bishop*; *An unbiassed and just Chancellor*; *A Virtuous and a Modest Lady*, and so through the best Degrees of Men and Women. But how odly would it sound, if we should take out the latter *Epithet* from each of these, and put in their stead the Word *Gaming*. And say, *A Wise and a Gaming King*; *A Learned and a Gaming Bishop*, *An unbiassed and Gaming Chancellor*; *A Virtuous and a Gaming Lady*, &c. From which it is plain, that *Gaming* must stand and agree with the worst Characters; For it Sounds very well to say

A Profligate Gaming Spendthrift; *A Notorious Gaming Sharper*; *A Swearing Gaming Bully*. And the same *Epithet* will agree as well with *Pick-pockets*, *Rakes*, *Highway-men*, and others of that distinguished Race of Mankind.

Thirdly, That it is *a Loss of Health* follows from the Sedentary Life, to which those who follow *Gaming* are confined; whence, as I am told by a knowing *Physician*, proceed *Dropsies*, *Gouts*, *Gravel*, and *Stone* in the Men; and in the Women, *Tympanies* of both kinds, *Hystericks*, *Vapours*, and a load of bad *Humours*, for want of those Exercises, which produce *Perspiration*, and *Evacuations* necessary to Invigorate, Strengthen, and preserve the *Animal Oeconomy*, free from those Numerous Distempers, which *Laziness* and *Sloth* produce.

Fourthly, That it is *a Loss of Fortune* is out of all Dispute, from the Numberless Instances, I cou'd give of *Lords*, *Ladies*, and *Squires*, some of whom have lost their whole Estates; others the most part; others again have laid themselves under such difficulties, that their Annual Income has fallen very short to supply them with the Common Necessaries of Life; so that they have been obliged to live upon the Credit of the ensuing Year.

And as for Ladies whose Pride would not permit them to be so obliged to their Creditors, they either pawn their Houshold Moveables, or Sell (what next to *Gaming*, does nearest to their Heart) their very Pa-

raphernalia; but this I muſt Remark, has happend chiefly among thoſe who have been ſeduced as Cullies to the Faſhionable *Game* of *Quadrill*. It will not be here Foreign to my purpoſe, to Write down ſome few *Inventories* of *Goods*, lately hawked about by truſty *Chamber-maids*.

Belonging to Lady *FLAVIA* near *Stephen's-Green*.
1 *Diamond Necklace*, 1 *Pair of Diamond Ear-Rings*. 3 *Diamond-Rings*, *and a Gold Watch with Trinckets*.

To Mrs. *DORINDA* of *Dawſon-Street*.
2 *Large Silver-Cups*, 3 *Salvers*, 2 *Pair of Candleſticks* 1 *Silver Sauce-Pan*.

To Madam *CHLOE* in *Fervice-Street*.
2 *Birth-Day Suits*, 1 *Piece of* French *Damask*, *Broad Green Stripe*, *with White Flowers*, *Pawned for Nine Pounds*, 4 *Damask Table-Cloaths*, *and a Dozen of Napkins*.

To Madam *LIBERIA* of *College-Green*.
A fine wrought Coverlet of a Bed, *A Picture of her Husband's Father and Mother ſet in Gold*, *A Gold Snuff-box*, 1 *Dozen of Silver-ſpoons*, *A Child's Bells and Coral*.

I have had an Account of many more, but this is full enough to anſwer my Deſign, for I intend only by this diſcovery that their Husbands ſhould add a little more to their Pin-money, and thereby enable them to pay their Debts of Honour, in a leſs Scandalous way.

Indeed it would not be amiſs, if Husbands ſhould make uſe of their Authority, at leaſt to regulate one Circumſtance, that is, to bring their Wives to be content with two Hours Play, inſtead of twelve in the four and twenty; becauſe ſome Inconveniences attend it. The Servants having all that Time to themſelves, to Intreigue; to Juncket; to Filch and Steal; to pawn the Inferior Moveables of the Pantry, and Kitchen; and laſtly to Corrupt the Children; by teaching them Curſing, Swearing, Lying, and Lewdneſs, which in all probability may bring both Ruin and Diſgrace to their Family.

It is very well known that among the great and faſhionable People of former ages, they very rarely had recourſe to *Gaming*. We read that *Artaxerxes*, *Cato*, and *Auguſtus*, did ſometimes Divert themſelves

ſelves this Way, but I cannot recollect that ever the *Ladies* entered into it at all, their Amuſements being rather the *Needle* and the *Loom*; for which their Perfections are Celebrated by the Oldeſt and beſt Poet of the World. The Men of any Conſequence, paſſed their Evenings in Learned and agreeable Converſation, ſuch as tended to make them wiſer and better, for which I appeal to the *Sympoſiacks* of *Plato*, the *Feaſt* of *Xenophon*, and thoſe Accounts given by *Macrobius*. And to bring the matter nearer our own Times, the People of the greateſt Conſequence, in theſe *Britiſh Iſles*, have choſen rather to paſs away their Evenings in Polite Diſcourſes with one another; and I ſhould think that I failed in a due Veneration for their Memories, if I ſhould paſs their Names over in Silence. The Celebrated Lord *Falkland*, Earl *Carnarvan*, *Endymion Porter*, Mr. *Waller*, Sir *John Suckling*, and among the converſible Ladies, The Counteſſes of *Bedford*, *Carliſle*, *Devonſhire*, and ſeveral others. This way of Improvement is elegantly diſcribed by *Horace*.

——— *Ergo*
Sermo oritur, non de villis domibuſve alienis:
Nec male necne Lepos Saltet: ſed quod magis ad nos
Pertinet, et neſcire malum eſt agitamus: utrumne
Divitiis hominis, an ſint virtute beati:
Quidve ad amicitias, Uſus, rectumne trahat nos:
Et quæ ſit natura boni, ſummumque, quid ejus.

Thus after plain Repaſt, each cheerful Gueſt,
With uſeful Converſation, Crowns the Feaſt,
Not Trifling Chat, on this, or tother Place,
Or *Lepos* Dancing with a better Grace;
But what is more Concern to Humane kind,
To mend our Manners, and improve the mind.
On *Philoſophick Queſtions* wiſely bent,
As whether Wealth or Vittue gives content,
What Cauſe directs us in the Choice of Friends,
Our private Int'reſt, or more Noble Ends.
What Road to chuſe, what End we ſhould purſue,
And how to keep the Good Supreme in View.

For

For my own Part I could rather Wish, and I believe many Husbands would agree with me, That the Ladies would rather employ themselves, as *Juvenal* Describes those in his Time, in Fighting Prize upon a Publick Stage, whereby they would at least discover their Activity, and their Courage, in a much more becoming manner, than (according to the present Practice) pulling of Coifs upoh a wrangle at *Quadrill*.

The Ancients did so far abhor any Excess in Gaming, That *Aristotle* in his 4th Book of *Ethicks*, at the latter end of the 1st. Chap. places *Tyrants*, *Gamester's* and *Robbers* in one Class, their Dispositions being exactly the same: For who ever yet knew a right Gamester, that was not apt to insult upon Success, or to pillage all before him upon every Advantage. The Author I have now mentioned Stiles them very justly *ἀιχροκερδεῖς* (I wish the *Ladies* understood *Greek*) We have no *English* Word expressive enough to explain it. The nearest meaning I can think of is *base-gainers*. And what can be baser, than to sit down deliberately with a Friend, either at his House, or my own, with an Intention to pick his Pocket, by a lucky Throw of a Dye, or a Cast of a Card. This has been frequently the Practice. However I shall content my self with a Relation of one Fact, because it is somewhat singular in it's kind.

BRYANIA the *Virago* one Evening, invited the beautiful *Morisda* to a game of *Cards* at her House, which the latter declined, as having neither Skill, nor Inclination, nor Money for Play; yet by much Importunity was prevailed on to sup with her, soon after *BRYANIA* calls for a *Pack of Cards*, and told the poor innocent Lady, she would instruct her in a Game, which a Child of four Years old might learn in four Minutes, to this the complying good-natured

natured *Moriſda* willingly conſented, upon her Friend's telling her ſhe might loſe very little by low playing at this Game. Accordingly they fixt upon three-pence a Counter. They had not played above three Hours, when the poor *Cully* was told ſhe had loſt about a trifle of twenty Guineas. Being not able to command twenty Shillings in the world, ſhe took her leave in great Confuſion, and Grief, promiſing to diſcharge the Debt in a litle Time. The unmerciful *BRYANIA* dunned her the Day following, and ſo continued for a Week. This put the poor indigent *Lady* upon trying all Friends. In the mean Time, the following Letter was written to her, which I have Tranſcribed with the ſtricteſt Juſtice to the Writer.

MADDUM,

I donat undarſtand yhuar tretmint in giuin me they troble off Sendin ſo offen forr that trifil with youe loſst too me tuther nit If youe doo nott ſeude itt bye they berer I a ſhuar youe I wil rite too yonar huſbund forr itt, Maddum I amm &c.

This terrible Letter put the poor *Lady* to her laſt Shifts (nor is it a wonder it ſhould, her Husband being the greateſt Bear living) which was to borrow the Money of a certain *Cellonel*, and this, uncharitable People did miſinterpret *for a Valuable Conſideration.*

The fifth *Loſs*, I mentioned, was that of *Temper*. If any one doubts the Truth of this Poſition, I refer him to the *Groom Porters*, and *Lucas's-Coffee-Houſe*, where the only Virtuoſo of the Gaming Science are Daily and Nightly to be ſeen. If *Blaſpheming*, *Curſing*, *Swearing*, *Dueling*, *Runing of Heads againſt the Wall*, *Throwing*

Throwing Hats and Wigs in the Fire, Distortions of the Countenance. Biting of Nails, Burning of Cards, Breaking of Dice-Boxes, can be called a *Loss* of Temper, they are found in the aforesaid places, in the highest degree of Perfection. And to make out the last and greatest Loss, which is, *The Loss of Life*.

I have, according to the best of my Memory, heard of no less than seven or eight worthy Gentlemen of the Trade, within a very few Years, upon some hasty Words and Blows, given at some these Gaming-Tables, retire from their Company, and one of them bring in the News of the other's Death in about Six Minutes.

Upon the whole, I cannot but remark, That Gaming proceeds from three Qualities of the basest kind, *Avarice*, *Laziness* and *Ignorance*; For it must undoubtedly be a thirst for Gain, which is a motive to high playing; and as for the Lazy and Ignorant (if they play low) I am more willing to indulge them, because they have naturally better Talents for *sitting* and *trifling*, than wholsome bodily Exercise, or spending the Evenings in a way of Conversation, agreeable to *Rational Creatures*.

I shall end this Paper with a very useful Remark. *Plato* is my Author, that the *Demon* THEUTH was the Inventor of *Dice* (The *Ladies* know well enough, that the *Devil* and *Demon* are the same) and the Vulgar have it by Tradition, that *Cards* are the Devil's own Invention, for which reason, time out of mind, they are and have been called *the Devil's Books*, therefore I cannot but say after this Information given, if Gamesters will not desist, they are undoubtedly at the *Devil's Devotion*.

FINIS.